Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method of treatment or prophylaxis of ischemic heart disease, comprising administering to a patient who is in need of such a treatment or prophylaxis a substance, as an active ingredient, which can increase intracellular cyclic guanosine 3',5'-monophosphate (cGMP) production by acting on a natriuretic peptide receptor, and which has an effect of reducing an infarct region, before the initiation of, during and/or following ~~to~~ ischemia reperfusion therapy.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 6, wherein ~~the~~ ischemia-reperfusion injury is suppressed in the treatment of ischemic heart disease.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method of claim 6, wherein the ischemic heart disease is myocardial infarction.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of ~~any one of~~ claims 6 ~~to 8~~, wherein the substance as the active ingredient is a natriuretic peptide or its salt.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein the natriuretic peptide is atrial natriuretic peptide.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method for reducing an infarct region or suppressing enlargement of an infarct region in the heart of a patient who is suffering from or has a potential risk of suffering from infarct resulting from ischemic necrosis as an ischemia reperfusion injury, wherein said method comprises:

administering a substance ~~capable of~~ acting on a natriuretic peptide receptor to increase

the production of cellular cyclic guanosine 3',5'-monophosphate (cGMP), at an amount effective for reducing the infarct region or suppressing enlargement of an infarct region to said patient before the initiation of, during and/or following ischemia reperfusion.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method of claim 11, wherein the substance ~~active ingredient~~ is a natriuretic peptide comprising ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP), brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) ~~and~~ or C-type natriuretic peptide (CNP).

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method of claim 12, wherein the substance ~~active ingredient~~ is administered at a dose between 0.01 μg/kg/ml and 0.2 μg/kg/ml by continuous infusion.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method of claim 13, wherein the substance ~~active ingredient~~ is administered at a dose between 0.025 μg/kg/ml and 0.1 μg/kg/ml.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method of any one of claims 12, 13 and 14, wherein ~~the infusion~~ administration is ~~made~~ by an intravenous injection.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method by any one of claims 12, 13 and 14, wherein ~~the infusion~~ administration is ~~made~~ by a coronary injection.